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## Thailand

### Grain and Feed

### Weekly Rice Price Update

2005

**Approved by:**

Rodrick McSherry, Agricultural Counselor  
U.S. Embassy, Bangkok

**Prepared by:**

Ponnarong Prasertsri, Agricultural Specialist

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**Report Highlights:**

Export prices changed insignificantly, but remained under upward pressure due to anticipated significant drop in second crop production resulting from drought.

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Includes PSD Changes: No  
Includes Trade Matrix: No  
Unscheduled Report  
Bangkok [TH1]  
[TH]

**Indicative Prices (Week Ending Mar. 7):**

Thailand: Export (FOB) Prices for various grades of rice (USD/M.T.)									
	Exporter Observations							Period Avg.	
	#1	#2	#3	#4	#5	#6	#7	CUR.	PRV.
F WR 100 B	450	440	430	-	440	425	410	433	438
WR 100 B	296	294	296	-	291	293	294	294	293
PB 5%	286	298	293	-	289	292	280	290	291
WR 5%	291	288	287	-	285	288	289	288	288
WR 10%	288	283	284	-	283	285	284	285	284
WR 15%	280	276	280	-	277	279	279	279	279
WR 25%	267	265	267	-	263	264	274	267	267
WR 35%	265	261	-	-	261	262	269	264	264
A 1 SUP	234	232	-	-	228	229	230	231	231
A 1 SPEC	231	231	-	-	226	-	228	229	231
Source: Average actual prices received from exporters									

**Market Tone**

Export prices for most grades of rice changed insignificantly. Trade sources reported that high prices meant that foreign buyers stayed away from Thai rice. Most current shipments were reportedly confined to the pending shipments of 100% and 5% grade white rice for Iran, Iraq, Malaysia, and China. Domestic prices remained under upward pressure, as the government will likely continue its intervention program for the coming second crop production, despite anticipated significant drop in production resulting from the concern over the drought. As of March 6, 2005, the government bought 4.4 million tons of paddy from main crop, of which 2.5 million tons were white rice paddy, and 1.8 million tons were fragrant paddy. According to the recent meeting of the Government's Committee on Rice Policy, the stock will not be released in this month in order to stabilize the domestic prices. However, trade sources expected that the government will eventually release the stock earlier in April, as the market prices will likely reach their peaks.

The following are the reported rice exports (as is basis):

WEEK ENDING	QUANTITY	4-WK AVG	YEAR TO DATE	YEAR AGO
	(MT)	(MT)	(TMT)	(TMT)
JAN 16	169,028	-	293	193
JAN 23	120,044	-	413	263
JAN 30	134,431	136,153	548	362
FEB 6	137,042	140,136	685	477
FEB 13	94,079	121,399	779	594
FEB 20	118,514	121,016	897	729
FEB 27	81,374	107,752	979	878
MAR 6	73,669	91,909	1,052	991

*Note on data: Export figures since March 22, 2002, do not include fragrant rice. The authority to report fragrant rice exports was moved from the Thai Board of Trade to the Ministry of Commerce's Office of Commodity Standards, which does not release official fragrant rice export data. FAS/BKK will report only official export numbers from the Board of Trade for non-fragrant and from the Office of Commodity Standards for fragrant rice when available, but the reader should bear in mind the difference between the data.*

Unofficial exports (excluding fragrant rice) for Feb. 28 – Mar. 6, 2005 totaled 73,669 tons, down 7,740 tons from the previous week's total and down 18,239 tons from the four-week moving average of 91,909 tons. Exports during Jan. 1 – Mar. 6, 2005 amounted to 1,052,334 tons, as compared with 991,166 tons in the previous year.

According to the Department of Foreign Trade, Ministry of Commerce, total rice exports (including fragrant rice) during Jan. 1 – Feb. 28, 2005, amounted to 1,327,792 tons, up 6.3 percent from 1,249,413 tons in the previous year.

### Weekly Rice Sales

Private registered rice export sales for the period of Feb. 14-18, Feb. 21-25, and Feb. 28 – Mar. 4, 2005 are as follows:

Movement (MT)	Feb. 14-18	Feb. 21-25	Feb. 28 – Mar. 4
weekly sales	97,236	83,747	32,632
4 week sum	438,454	362,939	309,358
4 week mov. avg.	109,614	90,735	77,340
Total weekly sales	918,808	1,002,555	1,035,187

End of Report.